

Application No. 09/927,236

Reply to Final Official Action mailed on September 16, 2004

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-27 remain in the case. Claims 1-15, 25 and 27 are rejected. Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 24 and 25 are amended.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowability of claims 16-24 and 26.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 24 and, 25 have been amended in order to avoid invoking 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. In particular, all instances of phrases such as — the steps of—have been deleted. Applicant wishes to note for the record that the amendments are neither narrowing, nor are the amendments being made for a reason substantially related to patentability. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added in the amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-15, 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Borza (US 5,995,630).

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly indicate that the “unique source” is a “unique source of the biometric information sensor”. As such, it is felt that there is no longer a potential cause for confusion regarding the nature of the “source”. Specifically, in the prior art of Borza column 7, beginning on line 8,

“For example, as shown in Fig. 3a, a fingerprint is registered in order to identify a source of the fingerprint; in dependence upon the source, an encryption and/or decryption key is selected.”

Later, Borza states on column 7, beginning on line 42,

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"The biometric information in the form of a fingerprint is registered in order to identify a source of the fingerprint; independence upon the source, a row or column value is determined which is provided as the data for the method of FIG 3."

In both of these passages from the prior art of Borza it is apparent that the "source" is referring to a source of the fingerprint and not "a unique source of the biometric information sensor" as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, it is apparent that the prior art of Borza does not describe the invention as recited in amended claim 1. As such, amended claim 1 is no longer anticipated by the prior art of Borza as described in 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as cited by Examiner.

Additionally, the prior art of Borza does not teach or suggest a "method of identifying a biometric information sensor comprising." Instead, the prior art of Borza focuses upon identifying the source of fingerprint data. This difference is significant. The problem addressed by the instant invention is described in paragraph 39 of the application. Specifically,

"In order to breach security of a computer provided with a device according to Fig. 1, a recorder is inserted between the device and the monitor and records a signal provided from the biometric input sensor to the monitor. The recorded signal is then played back to a security access system whenever access to the system is desired."

This problem is not addressed in the prior art of Borza. A person of skill in the art, having reviewed and understood the teachings of the Borza prior art would not be lead to the invention as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore amended claim 1 is not obvious in light of the prior art of Borza.

Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection to amended claim 1.

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Claims 2 to 15, 25 and 27 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1. As amended claim 1 is no longer anticipated or obvious in light of the prior art of Borza it is apparent that dependent claims 2 to 15, 25 and 27 cannot be obvious in light of the prior art of Borza. Thus, claims 2 to 15, 25 and 27 are allowable.

Applicant looks forward to favourable reconsideration of the present application.

**Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit
Account No: 50-1142.**

Respectfully submitted,



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